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# **Farm Broadcasters Letter**

United States Department of Agriculture Office of Public Affairs Radio-TV Division Washington D.C. 20250 (202) 447-4330

Letter No. 2507

May 10, 1991

**U.S. WHEAT SUPPORT DROPS BELOW CANADA'S** -- Secretary of Agriculture Edward Madigan says the latest calculation of producer support levels under the U.S.-Canada Free Trade Agreement shows the level for U.S. wheat has dropped below that of Canada's. This means Canada soon will remove import licenses for U.S. wheat & wheat products. Under the agreement, Canada must remove such import-restricting licenses for wheat, barley & oats from the U.S. when U.S. support levels for each grain are equal to or less than those of Canada. Contact: Sally Klusaritz (202) 447-3448.

**AQUACULTURE EXPECTED TO GROW** -- USDA economists expect domestic aquaculture to remain a growth industry. Despite efforts to manage wild fish & shellfish populations for their greatest sustained yield, USDA expects people in the U.S. to continue eating more seafood than the U.S. produces. During 1980-90, imports of edible fish products rose almost 50 percent to 3.2 billion pounds. Catfish dominates U.S. aquaculture and USDA economists expect catfish output to expand in 1991 & 1992. Contact: Dave Harvey (202) 219-0888.

**SAFE BARBECUING** -- USDA has tips on safe barbecuing, says Susan Templin Conley, manager of USDA's Meat & Poultry Hotline. "Last year, cooking-out questions accounted for 27 percent of total summer food-handling and preparation calls," she says. Some outdoor cooking tips include: marinate foods only in the refrigerator; remove visible fat from meat; cook food thoroughly when cooking ahead & then refrigerate quickly; serve food from the grill on a clean platter. Contact: Susan Templin Conley (202) 447-9351.

**1990 AG STATISTICS OFF PRESS** -- "Agricultural Statistics 1990," the annual book of data from USDA that covers a wide variety of facts in forms suited to most common use, is now available. USDA publishes Agricultural Statistics each year to meet the diverse need for a reliable reference book on ag production, supplies, consumption, facilities, costs & returns. We have a limited number available free for media only. Contact: Marci Hilt (202) 447-6445.

**SHEEP VACCINE CLOSER TO MARKET** -- A USDA scientist says field tests of an experimental vaccine show it is protecting sheep & goats against caseous lymphadenitis, a costly tumor-like disease. Vaccination is the only protection against the disease, which shortens an animal's life & ruins meat & hides. Kim Brogden, a microbiologist with USDA, and co-workers have been working on the new vaccine for six years. Contact: Kim A. Brogden (515) 239-8593.



**CENSUS PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE** -- The Commerce Department's Census Bureau has published the first in a series of pamphlets highlighting results from the 1987 Census of Agriculture. The eight-page booklet has data on the farm industry, as well as part-time farmers. It includes text, graphs & a regional map showing part-time farming in percentages of farms, farmland & value of ag sales. For a copy of "America's Agriculture: Part-Time Farmers" call the Census' Agriculture Division: (800) 523-3215.

**CORN FARMS** -- Corn is the major field crop produced in the U.S. Each year, 70 to 80 million acres of U.S. land are planted in corn, producing about 8 billion bushels. About 60 percent of U.S. corn is used as livestock feed; the remainder is split between domestic food use & export. USDA has a new report which focuses on corn farms -- "Representative U.S. Corn Farms, 1987." Characteristics such as size, land tenure, enterprise combination & financial structure influence how particular government policies or market conditions will affect farms. Contact: Michael E. Salassi, William D. McBride or Robert A. Pelly (202) 219-0801.

**WATER OUTLOOK BLEAK** -- Water supply conditions for many Western States, although improved over March, remain below-to-well-below average, says William Richards, chief of USDA's Soil Conservation Service. Runoff volumes of less than 70 percent of average are expected in California, Nevada, most of Oregon & Utah, southern Idaho, central Montana, eastern & southwestern Wyoming & northwestern Colorado. Contact: Ted Kupelian (202) 447-5776.

**COYOTES KILLING SHEEP & LAMBS** -- During 1990, predators killed 490 thousand sheep & lambs -- a loss of \$21.7 million for farmers & ranchers. Coyotes caused 63.7 percent of sheep & lamb losses; dogs accounted for 13.6 percent of the losses. Other common sheep predators are mountain lions, bears, foxes, eagles & bobcats. Wild pigs are a major threat in Hawaii. Coyotes also accounted for over half of the total losses of goats in the U.S. during 1990. Contact: Linda Simpson (202) 447-3578.

**ESSENTIAL OILS** -- Last year the U.S. exported a record \$155 million of essential oils, nearly 8 percent greater than a year earlier, despite a slight decline in volume. Essential oils include peppermint, spearmint, citrus -- orange, lime & lemon -- lavender, clove, caraway, geranium, citronella, sassafras, nutmeg & other citrus oils. Exports of mint oils increased to \$82.5 million from 1989 shipments valued at \$73.3 million, reflecting strong sales of peppermint & spearmint oil to the U.K., Germany & Japan. Contact: Rex E.T. Bull (202) 447-2974.

**RABIES VACCINE FIELD TRIAL** -- USDA will sponsor a public meeting May 17 in Harrisburg, Pa., to discuss plans to conduct a field trial of a genetically engineered rabies vaccine. The meeting will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Pennsylvania Game Commission, State Headquarters Building, 2001 Elmerton Ave. Contact: Amichai Heppner (301) 436-5222.



### FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

- AGRICULTURE USA #1770** -- Wet weather put a damper on the start of spring planting in central Iowa. On this edition of **Agriculture USA**, **Brenda Curtis** travels to the heartland to talk with farmers, a local banker & an extension agent about this year's crop prospects. (Weekly reel -- 13-1/2 minute documentary.)
- CONSUMER TIME #1252** -- Putting food safety into perspective; tightening the belt; extended warranties; adding fiber to your diet; new food packages. (Weekly reel of 2-1/2 to 3 minute consumer features.)
- AGRITAPE NEWS & FEATURES #1760** -- USDA News Highlights; price support provisions; the sound of silence; Japan -- a major market for U.S. exporters; salmon farming. (Weekly reel of news features.)
- NEWS FEATURE FIVE #1419** -- Smoking & bone loss; more colorful jeans; foreign nuts in Texas; pecans promote peace; "fresh-squeezed" OJ flavor identified. (Weekly reel of research feature stories.)
- UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE** -- Fri., May 17, cattle on feed, U.S. ag outlook, world dairy outlook; Mon., May 20, wheat outlook, catfish production; Tues., May 21, crop/weather update, U.S. ag trade update; Thurs., May 23, feed outlook, poultry production; Fri., May 24, livestock/poultry update; Tues., May 28, cotton/wool outlook. (These are the USDA reports we know about in advance. Our Newsline carries many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup. Please don't let the lack of a story listing keep you from calling!)

**DIAL THE USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.**

Material changed at 5 p.m., EDT, each working day.

### FROM OUR TELEVISION NEWS SERVICE

(Week of May 9, 11 & 13, 1991)

- FEATURES** -- **Pat O'Leary** reports on trees around the world; **Will Pemble** describes research to measure salt content in soils.
- ACTUALITIES** -- USDA Chief Meteorologist **Norton Strommen** on weather & crops; USDA Economist **Steve MacDonald** on U.S. exports; USDA Economist **Michael Kurtzig** on developing economies; USDA Economist **Jim Schaub** on oil crops; USDA Economist **Nathan Childs** on California sugarbeets.
- UPCOMING FEATURES** -- **DeBoria Janifer** reports on growing & selling herbs; **Pat O'Leary** reports on rural american history.

Available on Satellite Westar IV, Transponder 12D (Channel 23), Audio 6.2 or 6.8:

THURSDAY . . . . 7:30 - 7:45 p.m., EDT  
 SATURDAY . . . . 10 - 10:45 a.m., EDT  
 MONDAY . . . . 8 - 8:45 a.m., EDT

## OFFMIKE

**CORN PRODUCERS...**are averaging three weeks behind planting schedule in south central Iowa because its wet & cold, say **Vic McGill & Jerry Passer** (WMT, Cedar Rapids). Since the forecast calls for no change, farmers will probably plant shorter-season varieties. Jerry says he's mowing the lawn about every third day, when it's not raining, & a herd of goats would be helpful.

**DROUGHT...**in west Texas is hurting winter wheat. **Bob Cockrum** (Texas Agri-Business Network, Dallas) says several producers have told him they plan to graze what little remains of the crop. Producers won't plant cotton because it's too dry. Wheat in central sections is doing well, but too much moisture is promoting rust problems. Bob says NAFB's south central region meeting in El Dorado, Kans., was memorable, especially when **Kelly Lenz** (WIBW/Kansas Ag Network, Topeka) had an interview cut short by marble-sized hail pounding the tour bus roof.

### ***Farm Broadcasters Letter***


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Radio-TV Division  
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Washington, D.C. 20250-1300

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**PLANTING...**is being delayed in Minnesota by too much moisture in the southeast, & cool temperatures across the region, says **Shelly Beyer** (Linder Farm Network, Willmar). Shelly says dairy issues such as price, supply management & GATT "fast track" are big items on their broadcast schedule.

**TOO MUCH, TOO HARD, TOO OFTEN...**sums up the rainfall situation in Louisiana, says **Don Molino** (Louisiana Ag News Network, Baton Rouge). Cotton planting window remains open until mid-May, but right now it's too wet even for rice producers. Don says enough time remains for cotton if producers get successive dry days, but they will not plant their planned 940,000 acres.

**THANKS...**to John Spence (WNCT-TV, Greenville, N.C.) for the feedback on our TV features. He puts our satellite TV News Service to good use on his programs.



**VIC POWELL**  
Chief, Radio & TV Division